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1. On 10 April 1955, the 9 Tank Division, Podelenie [] which was attached to Army Headquarters, was designated as the 9 Tank Brigade, Podelenie [] and was attached to the 1 Army.
2. The following changes occurred in the 9 Tank Division between February and April 1955 (similar changes may have occurred also in other tank divisions):
 - a. The personnel strength was cut by 1,500 to 2,000 men. This affected mainly the howitzer and engineer regiments, the mechanized rifle battalion, and the truck company. The released troops were assigned to new artillery units in Samokov and Radomir or an existing howitzer regiment in Plaven, to the artillery unit which is one kilometer from Sofia in the direction of Samokov, and probably to an unidentified Khaskovo unit.
 - b. There was no change in the tank strength.
 - c. Three battalions and nine batteries of the howitzer regiment were reduced to two battalions and six batteries. Two of the batteries were composed of only officer personnel and training reserves.
3. Between January and May 1955, the following equipment and Soviet personnel arrived in the 9 Tank Division:
 - a. 35 new Czech tanks, which replaced the old tanks: These tanks, which

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "★")

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were larger than the T-34 tanks, were accompanied by a Soviet General, who became an adviser to the brigade in addition to the Soviet Colonel, who was already attached to the brigade;

- b. 36 new ZIS-15 trucks in the howitzer regiment, which replaced old ZIS-150 trucks sent to Samokov and Radomir, and twelve new ZIS-151 trucks, which replaced some old ZIS-5 trucks in the AAA Regiment, Podelenie [] 25X1
4. In May 1955, preparations were made in the 9 Tank Brigade to replace the Vintovka carbines with new automatic Vintovka rifles. [] 25X1
new larger AA guns were to replace the old 37-mm. guns.
5. The following are views of the platoon commander of Podelenie [] 25X1
 - a. The above changes are the result of a plan to attach the 9 Tank Brigade to the new Joint Soviet-Satellite Command and to assimilate its armament and organization to that of other Satellite tank brigades.
 - b. The purpose for the organizational changes in the 9 Tank Division was to create complex smaller units capable of independent action.
6. The commander of the Chemical Company of Podelenie [] believes that the reorganized units of the 9 Tank Brigade have the same authority as before, but that fewer troops are less vulnerable in an atomic attack. 25X1
7. The following are moves of Podelenie [] and its subordinate units in late January 1955: 25X1
 - a. The Howitzer Artillery Regiment moved to Gorna Banya from barracks in Sukhodol, Sofia Okazhina. These barracks were later occupied by an unidentified regiment with 35 to 40 self-propelled artillery pieces and by an incomplete tank regiment with about 20 T-34 tanks.
 - b. An unidentified battalion was transferred from the Howitzer Artillery Regiment to a new artillery unit in Samokov, after a mountain artillery regiment in Samokov moved to an unknown destination.
8. The Corps in Sofia (Sofiskia Corpus) engaged in artillery exercises in the Sofia area between June and July 1955.
9. [] a maneuver including all Satellite armies under a joint command will probably take place in Bulgaria. 25X1
10. There are 13 AA batteries around Sofia and three around Dimitrovgrad. The Rifle division which is located in Slivnitsa, Sofia Okazhina, remained a division despite a decrease in strength between February and March 1955.
11. [] the Infantry Battalion there became a regiment in March 1955. 25X1

Simulated Atomic and Gas Warfare Maneuvers

12. More than 10,000 Troops from Plovdiv, Kurdzhali, Sofia, Burgas and other towns, including reserves from Plovdiv, Khaskovo, and Kurdzhali Okazhinas principally, engaged in 15-day simulated atomic and gas warfare maneuvers in late September 1954 in the Ikhtiman and Samokov Areas. 25X1
 - a. All types of military units participated, [] which was the only unit from the 9 Tank Division (now 9 Tank Brigade).
 - b. An unknown number of Soviet advisers participated in the maneuvers, including a Colonel General and a Lieutenant Colonel, both of whom commanded and observed the maneuvers.

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- c. The "Enemy" was smaller in number but superior in technical equipment.
13. The maneuvers were carried out in the following three phases;
- a. Phase one: A ten-day simulated atomic and gas attack was made on a concentrated position;
- (1) The defense dug three-meter deep personnel trenches and trenches for guns;
 - (2) A simulated atomic and gas attack by air was made on the gun positions. In both attacks Soviet-type gas masks were worn. Chemical troops, wearing rubber suits, sprayed the guns to simulate atomic or gas conditions. After the attacks, the guns were decontaminated with chemicals. One type of chemical was used after the gas attack and another type was used after the atomic attack.
 - (3) There were two to three gas attacks per day, and the atomic attacks occurred about every other day.
- b. Phase two: After the atom bombing, the troops crossed the "enemy" area. Only the rifle troops wore special capes covering the head, arms, and legs. The capes were waxed or oiled to withstand radiation. Vehicles were instructed to transit the "enemy" area rapidly.
- c. Phase three: Engineers on hills simulated an atomic explosion with a flash and mushroom cloud three to four kilometers from the troops south or southeast of Gorni Okol (N 42-28, E 23-31).
14. For the first ten days, all units gathered about 20 kilometers southeast of Ikhtiman at Greba in the mountains and on both sides of the highway. During the last five days, the units followed the road toward the west of Ikhtiman. They passed west of Verinske and west of Studena Dan. They probably went through Shishmanovo, passed south of Malkovo, went west of the Sofia-Samekov highway, headed south, passed west of Samekov, and finally arrived at Govedartsai and Mala Tsurkva.
15. The maneuvers terminated in a five to six hour parade with vehicles in Govedartsai or Mala Tsurkva before Premier Charvenkov, Army General Petur Panchevski, Lieutenant General Diko Dikov, and high Soviet and other Bulgarian officers.

Large Scale Artillery Exercises; Airfield

16. [redacted] seven-day large-scale artillery exercises called "Korpuzni Strelbi" (Corp Firing Practice) in the Opitsvet-Peturch area between June and July 1954. 25X1
- a. Units from Sofia, Sukhodol, Samekov, Stara Zagora, and Pleven participated.
- b. The weapons included more than 200 artillery guns as well as mortars, antiaircraft guns, and antitank guns.
- (1) [redacted] three rocket (Reaktivni) mortars of Czech make, with eight to twelve barrels in two cases, and capable of eight to twelve simultaneous shots. They were mounted on Praga trucks, belonging to a Sofia unit. 25X1
 - (2) [redacted] three rocket launchers (Katyushka type) mounted on ZIS trucks, belonging to a Pleven regiment, called "Reaktivni polk" (rocket regiment). 25X1
- c. Exercises included firing directed by a Plane spotter. A new system of artillery cross-fire, resembling a creeping barrage, was used from three batteries.

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d. There were Soviet advisers in each unit and altogether approximately 100 uniformed foreign military observers.

17. Another rocket launcher regiment is located in the Sofia area. [redacted] twelve rocket launchers mounted on ZIS trucks at the 9 September 1954 parade in Sofia.
18. No members of the 1935 recruit class are now in tank units.
19. At the Knez Boris Airfield near Sofia in January 1955 [redacted] jet aircraft and gates of underground hangars, which were about 650 meters from the concrete runway. The runway was about 550 (sic, probably 55) meters wide and more than 1,000 meters long.

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Anti-Tito Propaganda Stopped in Military Units

20. The following took place in Podelenie [redacted] in the Sofia area and is believed to apply to all military units:
- a. During June 1955, Political officers collected all propaganda literature in the barracks and troops were forbidden to possess anti-Tito literature.
- b. After the Soviet-Yugoslav talks and the visit of Bulganin and Khrushchev to Sofia, political officers told the troops that the Tito break with the Cominform was the result of Beria's falsification of certain documents and that only Beria was guilty.

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